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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/692,530	10/24/2003	Kim Cameron	40062.0218US01	9898
7590 09/06/2007 Homer Knearl Merchant & Gould P.C. P.O. Box 2903 Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903			EXAMINER HOANG, DANIEL L	
			ART UNIT 2136	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/06/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/692,530	Applicant(s) CAMERON ET AL.	
	Examiner Daniel L. Hoang	Art Unit 2136	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 June 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/02/07</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

CLAIMS PRESENTED

Claims 1, and 3-22 are presented.

RESPONSE TO AMENDMENTS

In response to applicants' amendments, the previous action's 101 rejections have been withdrawn.

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS

Applicant's arguments filed 6/15/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue the following:

Applicants argue that the cited reference, Hanna, cannot anticipate the claimed invention because Hanna is directed towards a different problem and a different solution. Applicants contend that Hanna is directed to a system that allows an application server to determine whether a particular applicant has membership in an existing group that has particular permissions with the server. By contrast, the claimed invention is directed to establishing a new group at a receiving system and then establishing membership in the new group.

Examiner respectfully disagrees with these arguments. Applicants claim that a new group is established and membership in the new group is also established. The claim language only cites that, "...to establish the group identity at the receiving system." Based on this, it can be seen that at only one instance is anything established. Further, the claim does not cite that the group identity being established is a new group or even that it is a group that is being established. The claim cites that a group identity is established. This could be taken to mean that a certain identity, meaning person or individual, is being established as a member of the group. The word, establish, does not necessarily mean that the group identity is being created for the first time, which seems to be what applicants are arguing. The group identity may be established any subsequent number of times.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 9, and 16 recite the limitation "to establish the group identity". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For purposes of examination, the claims are read as "to establish a group identity". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hanna et al.,
US Patent No. 6,801,998, hereinafter Hanna.

As per claim 1, Hanna teaches:

In an initiating system, a method for establishing a group membership with a group identity information document comprising:

creating group identity information for inclusion in the group identity information document; and

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[see col. 5, lines 29-33] "In response to the receipt of a request for service from the applicant associated with the client 10, the application server 12 determines the identification of the group or groups having the right to perform the requested service."

generating a self-signed group identity information document comprising the group identity information, at least a first key, and a group identity information document signature signed using a second key associated with the first key in the identity information document.

[see col. 5, lines 36-49] "The application server 12 generates an encrypted group identification message, which may take a number of forms. For example, as depicted in FIG. 4a, the encrypted group identification message may be formed by encrypting the relevant group id (i.e. the group id for the group having access to the requested service) with an encryption key which permits decryption by the applicable group membership server 16. More particularly, the application server 12 and the group membership server may have a shared or symmetric key and the group id may be encrypted using the shared key. Alternatively, the applicable group membership server 16 may be provided with a public key pair and the group id may be encrypted using the respective group membership server public key."

sending the group-signed group identity information document to a receiving system to establish the group identity at the receiving system.

[see col. 5, lines 62-65] "The client 10, upon receipt of the encrypted group id, forwards the same to the default group membership server 16 or the applicable group membership server 16 specified in the message."

As per claim 3, Hanna teaches:

The method of claim 2, further comprising: sending a group-signed membership identity information document with the group-signed group identity information document to the receiving system to establish membership of an originator of the membership identity information document in the group identity established at the receiving system.

[see col. 5, lines 58-61] "The message transmitted from the application server 12 to the client 10 that includes the encrypted group id may also include an unencrypted identification of the group membership server 16."

As per claim 4, Hanna teaches:

The method of claim 3 further comprising:

receiving the group-signed membership identity information document from the originator;

[see col. 5, lines 66-67] "The group membership server receiving the encrypted group id decrypts the message to obtain the name of the group having the right of access to the requested service."

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detecting whether the group associated with the membership identity information document has been accepted; and

[see col. 6, lines 2-4] "The group membership server then determines if the applicant is a member of the specified group."

assigning security protocols to communications from the originator based on the group identity information if the group identity information is accepted.

[see col. 6, lines 4-6] "If it is determined that the applicant is a member of the group, the group membership server 16 generates a message indicative of membership."

As per claim 5, Hanna teaches:

The method of claim 3, wherein the act of sending comprises: storing the group-signed membership identity information document in an initiating system; retrieving the group-signed membership identity information document; attaching the group-signed membership identity information document to the message; and sending the message to the receiving system.

[see fig. 3A and 3B]

As per claim 6, Hanna teaches:

The method of claim 3, further comprising: sending to the receiving system a self-signed personal identity information document of the originator of the message to establish at the receiving system identity of the originator in addition to originator's membership in the group.

[see rejection of claim 4, wherein if the group membership server determines if the applicant is a member of the specified group. Examiner is interpreting that it is clear that applicant submits some sort of identification information along with encrypted group ID in order for said server to authenticate/validate applicant.]

As per claim 7, Hanna teaches:

The method of claim 6, wherein the acts of sending a self-signed personal identity information document and group-signed membership identity information document comprise; generating the self-signed personal identity information document;

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[see rejection of claim 6]

attaching the self-signed personal identity information document to the message;

[see rejection of claim 6]

retrieving the group-signed membership identity information document;

[see rejection of claim 1]

attaching the group-signed membership identity information document to the message; and

[see rejection of claim 1]

sending the message to the receiving system.

[see rejection of claim 3]

As per claim 8, 19, and 20, Hanna teaches:

The method of claim 6 further comprising:

receiving the group-signed membership identity information document and the self-signed personal identity information document from the originator;

[see fig. 3A, element 60]

detecting whether the group associated with the membership identity information document is accepted and whether the person associated with the personal identity information document is accepted;

[see fig. 3A, elements 62 and 74]

assigning first security protocols to communications from the originator if the group is accepted; and

[see fig. 3B, element 78]

assigning second security protocols to communications from the originator if the person is accepted.

[see fig. 3B, element 80]

As per claim 9 and 16, Hanna teaches:

In a communication system, apparatus for establishing a group identity comprising:

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a group ID generate module generating a group certificate having at least a public key and a digital signature for the group; and a send module transmitting the group certificate to establish the group identity at a receiving system.

[see rejection of claim 1, further see col. 6, lines 10-14] "the message may comprise an encrypted certificate signed by the respective group membership server 16 that indicates that the applicant is a member of the specified group. The certificate is signed by the respective group membership server 16 and encrypted using an encryption key that permits decryption by the application server. This encryption key may comprise a shared key or alternatively, the public key of a public key pair maintained by the application server 12."

As per claim 10, Hanna teaches:

The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising: an attach module attaching a group membership certificate to a message originated by a sender; the send module transmitting the message to the receiving system to establish the sender as a member of the group at the receiving system.

[see rejection of claim 9, encrypted certificate]

As per claim 11, Hanna teaches:

The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising:

a membership ID generate module generating a membership certificate having at least a public key of the sender and a digital signature for the group;

[see rejection of claim 9]

a save module, responsive to the membership ID generate module, storing the membership certificate;

[see fig. 1, application server]

a retrieve module retrieving the membership certificate from the save module and providing the membership certificate to the attach module.

[see fig. 1 application server]

As per claim 12, Hanna teaches:

The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising: a receive module at the receiving system receiving the membership certificate; an accept module at the receiving system detecting whether to accept the membership certificate.

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[see fig. 1, group membership server]

As per claim 13, Hanna teaches:

The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising: an assign module assigning a security identification to communications from the sender based on the group associated with the membership certificate if the membership certificate is accepted by the accept module.

[see fig. 3A, elements 62 and 74]

As per claim 14, Hanna teaches:

The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising: a personal ID generate module generating a personal certificate having at least a public key of the sender and a digital signature by the sender;

[see fig. 3A, element 68]

the send module transmitting the personal certificate to establish the sender's identity at the receiving system.

[see fig. 3A, element 70]

As per claim 15 and 22, Hanna teaches:

The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising:

a personal ID generate module generating a personal certificate having at least a public key of the sender and a digital signature by the sender;

[see fig. 3A, element 68]

a receive module at the receiving system receiving the certificates;

[see fig. 3A, element 60]

an accept module at the receiving system detecting if the certificates are to be accepted;

[see fig. 3A, elements 62 and 74]

an assign module assigning a security protocol to communications from the sender based on a group identity associated with the membership certificate if the membership certificate is accepted by the accept module; and

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[see fig. 3B, element 78]

the assign module assigning a security protocol to communications from the sender based on personal identity associated with the personal certificate if the personal certificate is accepted by the accept module.

[see fig. 3B, element 80]

As per claim 18, Hanna teaches:

The computer readable medium of claim 17 wherein the process further comprises: creating the membership certificate at the initiating system, the membership certificate having at least a public key of the originator and a digital signature signed using the group private key.

[see rejection of claim 1]

As per claim 21, Hanna teaches:

The computer readable medium of claim 17 wherein the process further comprises generating a personal certificate having at least a public key of the originator and a digital signature for the originator signed by the originator with a private key associated with the public key of the originator; sending the personal certificate to establish the personal identity of the originator at the receiving system.

[see rejections of claims 1 and 9]

CONCLUSION

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

POINTS OF CONTACT

- * Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to (571) 273-8300 or mailed to:**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulaney Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

- * Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel L. Hoang whose telephone number is 571-270-1019. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., EST.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nasser Moazzami can be reached on 571-272-4195. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Daniel L. Hoang
8/30/07

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